

**Arlington Human Rights Commission
Minutes, August 17, 2016
Jefferson Cutter House, 8:00
Christine Carney, Chair**

Present: C. Carney, G. DiFiglia, M. Goldsipe, S. Grossman, N. Minton

Absent: S. Baron, W. Bell, M. Brigggett, Y. Degboe, G. Horowitz, C. Huvos, W. Logan

Open Forum – No guests this evening

Review of July 2016 minutes – Tabled due to the absence of a quorum

Correspondence received

1. Voicemail regarding some issues regarding the Arlington Housing Authority and Section 8 vouchers. W. Logan informed the caller that the AHRC had no authority to handle complaints against the Town but invited them to attend the August AHRC meeting.
2. Voicemail from someone offering to volunteer to paint the property that was recently vandalized with swastikas.

Incidents and complaints

1. Emails reporting a David Duke sticker on the back of a street sign on Lake Street.
2. The APD's log of July 21, 2016 noted that a resident of the house flying a Confederate flag reported being harassed by drivers honking their horns as they passed their house. Extra police patrols were requested. This matter was not filed as a complaint to the AHRC.
3. The APD reported to the AHRC that Rev. Malia Crawford from the Church of Our Savior Episcopal reported on August 3, 2016 the theft of the church's Black Lives Matter banner. (The minister noted that the banner has been stolen or vandalized 4 times in the previous 6 weeks.) Rev. Christine Elliott of Calvary Church United Methodist offered one of the church's extra Black Lives Matter banners.

Community Black Lives Matter discussion

On July 31, 2016 there was a discussion at First Parish Unitarian-Universalist regarding Black Lives Matter led by a community member. Rev. Marta Morris Flanagan of First Parish UU noted that the meeting was well attended and several ideas were proposed (e.g., Town Hall flying a Black Lives Matter banner), but no substantive decisions or actions were taken.

Subcommittee reports

1. LGBTQIA+ survey: analysis has not been completed and a written report for Vision 2020 has not yet been made.
2. Schools: 1. Waiting to hear back from Margaret Thomas regarding scheduling a METCO meeting. 2. Cindy Bouvier, Director of Wellness at Arlington Public Schools, wrote that the AHS Principal was planning to post diversity-oriented welcoming signs on opening day. Suggestions were solicited from AHRC. C. Carney would contact her to see what resources might be utilized. 3. S. Grossman will report at the September 2016 AHRC meeting regarding recent changes and suggestions relating to responding to future hate issues/events.
3. True Story Theater: AHRC informed True Story Theater that the Commission would not be able to sign on as a partner for the grant proposal as written. But it was noted that AHRC needs to have a liaison with True Story Theater for the remainder of the current grant period. This will be considered at the September 2016 meeting.

Budget for 2017

The Town wants AHRC to alter its budget approach. It is requested that AHRC prepare a more detailed budget in advance so that accounts may be established by the Town with approved vendors. This request will be discussed further at the September 2016 meeting.

Town Day: Sat., Sept. 17, 2016

It was noted that AHRC has voted to spend up to \$500 for Town Day 2016. The meeting on September 14, 2016 will seek to finalize what materials will be available at the AHRC booth and staffing arrangements.

Update on Commission vacancy

Vacancy has not yet been filled. Commissioner Bell has updated the contact list of local places of worship and other affinity groups to reach out to invite applications in addition to the *Advocate* and Town email. Commissioner Carney will review to see if there are additional places that should be advertised.

Human Rights Campaign's 2016 Municipal Equity Index

A draft Municipal Equity Index score for the Town of Arlington was examined. It was noted that changes can be requested if supporting documentation is provided. Commissioner Goldsipe passed along the request for revision and documentation to the Town Manager.

Town of Reading, MA Human Relations Advisory Committee Update -- no report

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm

Respectfully submitted
Nick Minton, Commissioner
Arlington Human Rights Commission